GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2632
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2003
EXPORT OF WHEAT
IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian wheat exporters are facing stiff competition from France and China;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to protect domestic producers and exporters?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SU MAHARIA)

(a),(b)&(c): Export competitiveness depends upon a number of factors including demand, pricing, quality etc. which vary from time to time.

The Government fixes minimum support price for wheat conforming to specifications for procurement by Food Corporation of India and State agencies to protect the interest of farmers.

In view of the surplus stock in the Central Pool, wheat is offered for export. Some of the promotional measures taken by the Government include:

Procedural restrictions liberalized.

An empowered Standing Committee on Exports takes expeditious decisions.

In order to offer a stable price regime, the Government fixes the offer price of export of wheat from the Central Pool for a period of 3 months with an additional month given for lifting of stocks and to announce the prices 45 days in advance before the commencement of the concerned quarter.

WTO compatible post-delivery and related expenses are allowed to the exporters.